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COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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Website Quicklist

Please remind students of online sites that will be useful when deciding on schools to apply to and education funding options.

U.S. Department of
Education
www.ed.gov

Alabama Student Loan
Program
www.alstudentaid.com

Alabama Mentor
www.alabamamentor.org

Free Application for Federal
Student Aid
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Alabama Commission on
Higher Education
www.ache.state.al.us

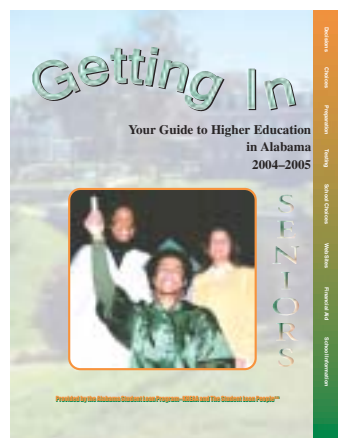
The Alabama College System
www.acs.cc.al.us

If your school's Website isn't linked to ours, please ask your technology coordinator to set up a link to the Alabama Student Loan Program-KHEAA.

What's new?

The eighth edition of *Getting In* will soon be arriving from The Alabama Student Loan Program-KHEAA. The latest version offers a few additions to help students stay organized while applying to college. The new features include a financial aid checklist, an admissions checklist and a detachable planning calendar for seniors.

This publication is being sent directly to counselors for distribution to students. We ask that you distribute *Getting In* to all seniors, not just those who are college-bound.



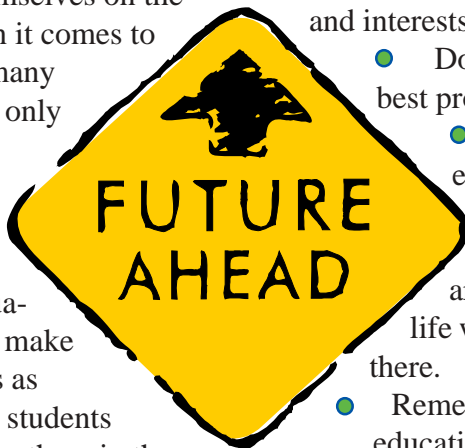
In coming months also look for the second edition of *Affording Higher Education*. This publication has the most up-to-date information regarding loans, grants and scholarships available to Alabama students. Included are listings of financial aid sources from organizations, companies, schools, and the state and federal government.

Copies of *Affording Higher Education* are not distributed to students but will be available at high school and public libraries, financial aid offices, and high school counselor offices.

If you need additional copies of either of these publications, you may contact Lora Kiser at the Alabama Student Loan Program-KHEAA address or number on the front page. These publications will also be available on www.alstudentaid.com

Live for Today, Prepare for Tomorrow

High school students pride themselves on the ability to live for the moment. When it comes to planning for life after high school, many students become overwhelmed. Not only will the decision they make affect their entire life, but there are also outside pressures from family and friends. Many students find the easiest way to handle a stressful situation is to ignore it. It is important to make the college decision-making process as stress-free as possible to ensure that students make the decision that will best serve them in the future. Alabama Student Loan Program-KHEAA offers the following tips to remind students of:



- Choose a major that corresponds with their talents and interests.
- Do research to find what schools have the best programs for a particular major.
 - Narrow school choices by setting criteria for each school to meet, such as: location, average class size, and/or school population.
 - Visit the school's campus while classes are in session to give the student a preview of what life would be like should the student decide to attend there.
- Remember that the decision is theirs. Higher education is a stepping-stone to the future. Ask friends and family for advice, but make the final decision based on their preference.

Checklist for College-Bound Seniors

You might want to pass this information to your seniors. It will help them stay on track in their college preparation.

October

- ☐ Review admissions applications; begin writing essays.
- ☐ Meet with college admissions representatives or schedule visits to schools you are interested in attending. Talk with students and staff.
- ☐ Register for December ACT and/or SAT.
- ☐ Attend college fairs and financial aid nights.
- ☐ Request recommendations from teachers, employers and guidance counselors.
- ☐ If applying for Early Decision, send in application.

November

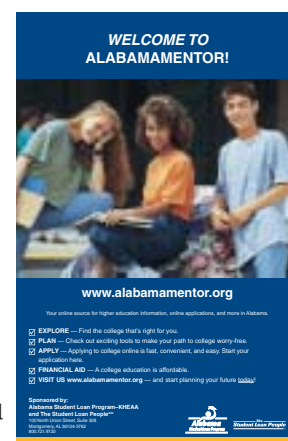
- ☐ If you haven't already, register for the December ACT and/or SAT.
- ☐ Watch for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available from your high school counselor, financial aid office of the school you plan to attend or at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ☐ Continue to work on application essays.
- ☐ Begin preparing your college application.
- ☐ Watch scholarship deadlines.

December

- ☐ Register for January SAT and/or February ACT.
- ☐ Finalize application essays and complete the admissions procedures for your top school choices.
- ☐ Remind your references of application deadlines. Send thank you notes to these people.
- ☐ Mail all applications or turn them in to your high school, depending on the system your school uses.
- ☐ Keep copies of all admissions applications.

Get online

Don't forget to visit alabamamenter.org, an online higher education resource for students and counselors. Track your students as they use the website to research, tour, and apply to colleges and universities. Through alabamamenter.org, you can also send reminders to individuals or groups about upcoming testing dates, college fairs and orientations.



**The
Student Loan People**
SM

You can go to college. We'll get you there for less.